

Reviewer 2 v.1

Comments to the Author

This is a laudible message and deserves to be publicised. However, it is not especially novel given the paper published by Baud et al in *Frontiers in Public Health* last week. The messages are more or less the same. So, I suggest a small revision to focus on the novelty of this submission.

Other points:

- advocacy of fibre is fine but often leads to a non-selective fermentation effect by gut bacteria. This could cause gas distension issues that would not help persons to whom this report is being addressed. I suggest an additional discussion on prebiotics also. They have a specific fermentation i.e. aiming for similar influences to probiotics
- state the evidence for how probiotics (and prebiotics) can influence viruses, not just bacteria
- the outbreak data seem wrong. Latest death figures from the UK alone are well over 32,000. So the entire EEA must be significantly higher than this
- be more specific on the SCFA section: which types, mechanisms of effect, which bacteria produce them
- as there are a vast range of probiotics and fibres (and prebiotics), the conclusion is too generic. Please make recommendations for which types and why